

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 14974

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, UR

SUBJECT: SAUVAGNARGUES ON THE GISCARD VISIT

1. BOTH SAUVAGNARGUES AND ANDREANI, WITH WHOM I HAD SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS AT THE KREMLIN RECEPTION LAST NIGHT, TOLD ME THAT THE VISIT HAD PRODUCED NO SURPRISES FOR THE FRENCH, WHO HAD IN ANY CASE NOT EXPECTED MUCH SUBSTANTIVELY. THEY SAID THAT RUMORS OF "BLOW-UPS" OR "SNUBS" HAD THEIR BASIS ONLY IN NEWS-PAPER INVENTIVENESS, NOT IN FACT. THEY ASCRIBED POSTPONEMENT OF THE OCTOBER 15 MEETING TO BREZHNEV'S COLD, AND SEEMED PLEASED THAT BREZHNEV HAD MADE THE EFFORT TO ATTEND THE OCTOBER 12 LUNCH, WHICH WAS HOSTED BY PODGORNYY.

2. SAUVAGNARGUES AND ANDREANI EXPRESSED SATISFACTION OVER "CERTAIN PROGRESS" THEY HAD REACHED ON ECONOMIC MATTERS (THOUGH ON THIS POINT, AND ON OTHERS AS WELL, I GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT ANDREANI WAS SOMEWHAT MORE LUKEWARM THAN SAUVAGNARGUES IN HIS APPRAISALS). BY SEPTTEL WE ARE REPORTING OUR ANALYSIS OF THE VISIT'S FINAL DOCUMENTS, WHICH APPEARED IN PRAVDA OCTOBER 18.

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3. THE MOST DIFFICULT QUESTION IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS, THEY CON-

FIRMED, WAS THAT OF BASKET III IMPLEMENTATION. THE SOVIET REPLY IN ALL STAGES OF THESE DISCUSSIONS WAS INVARIABLY AN EXPRESSION OF THEIR INTENTION TO FULFILL "THE LETTER" OF THEIR OBLIGATIONS, WITH LITTLE ADDITIONAL DETAIL. THEY SAID THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED, HOWEVER, ON MULTIPLE ENTRY/EXIT VISAS FOR JOURNALISTS, ALONG THE LINES OF OUR AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIETS. ALSO, THE SOVIETS HAD RATHER UNENTHUSIASTICALLY AGREED TO TAKE UNDER ADVISEMENT A FRENCH PROPOSAL TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO DISCUSS IMPROVED WORKING CONDITIONS FOR JOURNALISTS (AND, JUDGING FROM THE JOINT DECLARATION - SEE SEPTTEL - FOR RESIDENT BUSINESSMEN AND OTHER SENDING STATE NATIONALS AS WELL). SAUVAGNARGUES SAID THAT THE QUESTION OF READING ROOMS WAS NOT DISCUSSED, AND ADDED THAT HE DISAGREED WITH SOME OF HIS OWN ADVISERS AND DID NOT CONSIDER THAT THE SUBJECT WAS AN IMPORTANT ONE. SAUVAGNARGUES AND ANDREANI DESCRIBED THE DISCUSSIONS ON STUDENT AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES AS SUBSTANTIVE AND USEFUL, BUT SAID THEY HAD ACHIEVED NO BREAKTHROUGHS.

4. ACCORDING TO SAUVAGNARGUES, NEITHER SIDE HAD ENGAGED IN ANY "EMBARRASSING" PRESSURE TACTICS ON ANY ISSUE DURING THE PRIVATE TALKS. HE SAID THAT THE SOVIETS HAD NOT TWISTED ANY FRENCH ARMS ON DISARMAMENT OR ON MBFR, AND HAD NOT PUSHED THEIR CONCEPT THAT THE IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE MUST CONTINUE. THE SOVIETS HAD SPOKEN IN VAGUE TERMS ABOUT THE EXOTIC WEAPON BAN PROPOSAL, BUT HAD NOT INSISTED ON FRENCH INTEREST IN IT.
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